



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE RETURNS 58 TO PAKISTAN

New Orleans Detention and Removal Operations worked closely with the Pakistani government

NEW ORLEANS—Fifty-eight Pakistani nationals who were illegally living in the United States were returned to their home country Thursday by the Detention and Removal Office here, a program within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ICE chartered an aircraft to fly the Pakistanis, who had exhausted their legal appeals, from the United States to Islamabad.

Craig Robinson, Field Office Director for ICE New Orleans Detention and Removal Operations, noted the cooperative effort with Pakistan. “The Pakistani government provided outstanding support to help us make this an especially successful mission,” he said. “We work closely with numerous countries using ICE’s unique enforcement tools, including the immigration laws, to promote a higher level of security here at home. Our number-one priority is the removal of criminal aliens from the United States.”

The government of Pakistan worked with U.S. officials to authorize travel documents for each of the 58 aliens, and coordinate logistics for the flight. A Pakistani government official rode in the plane to help smooth the procedures for those being returned.

This repatriation represents the latest in a series of collaborations between Pakistan and the U.S. within the last two years, leading to the successful repatriation of more than 500 Pakistani nationals from throughout the United States.

Pakistani government officials also emphasized the importance of intergovernmental cooperation in the effort. “Almost all of these individuals wanted to return home as quickly as possible and be reunited with their families,” said Dr. Sohail Kahn, First Secretary for Political and Consular Affairs at the Embassy of Pakistan. “Our priority is to ensure their swift return with dignity and honor.”

This week's flight was the latest in a series of recent deportation missions ICE has completed with the support of foreign governments. Assisting ICE DRO with the removals were: the Plaquemine's Parish Jail and SWAT Team, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office and U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Border Patrol.

ICE

ICE, the primary investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.